

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT APPLICATION

OF

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FOR

Y-Thong Undergarment for Women

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The disclosed invention relates to women's undergarments and in particular to an undergarment in the shape of a Y-Back Thong useful as an undergarment in combination with fashionable low-cut pants or skirts. The undergarment disclosed provides a geometry which prevents a horizontal upper back strap in a conventional thong design from protruding outside the contour of low-cut pants or a low-cut skirt being worn by the user.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Changes in fashion and style of women's clothing over the years have frequently presented tight-fitting or low-cut pants or skirts which begin at or below a woman's hips. In the past, such low-cut styles have been referred to as "hipsters" or "hip huggers." The wearing of such fashionable apparel dictates that for proper appearance and clean lines the connecting straps which comprise the structure of the undergarment be hidden and unobservable with such low-rise clothing design. Conventional panty design or thong design using a strap which circumvents the waist of the wearer, protrudes above the top waistline of a low-cut apparel, thereby presenting an unsightly or unappealing appearance.

The present invention overcomes these problems by providing a single undergarment in which the geometrical shape and structure of the garment, defined by the strap design and shape, present an undergarment of thong design which can be worn comfortably by the user while providing for a

1 harmonious low-cut appearance, thereby preventing unsightly protrusions of
2 underwear above the waistline of a low-cut garment being used in conjunction
3 with the underwear.

4

5 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

6 In view of the foregoing disadvantages found in undergarments with
7 the prior art, including known types of thong-style panties and other
8 undergarments which may be used under close-fitting or low-rise
9 overgarments, the present invention provides a thong undergarment which
10 can be used for improving the user's appearance and comfort when used
11 with low-rise fashion pants and skirts. The undergarment is a unit of a one-
12 piece design utilizing a cotton and nylon combined material, although the
13 invention would function with any of the commonly available fabrics used for
14 undergarments or conventional thong design. A triangular-shaped panty
15 panel extends across the lower front portion from an upper band, tapering to
16 the crotch area then connected through the legs to the waistband extending
17 from the top of the panty panel at a point below the top of the panty panel
18 line closest to the waist of the wearer. The three-point connection of the
19 resulting straps occurs in the buttocks area of the user at a connection point
20 defining the approach angle of each strap of approximately one hundred
21 twenty degrees (120°). A small three-surface triangular connecting plastic
22 piece is used to affix the joining of the three points comprising the

1 connection of the three resulting straps.

2 It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved
3 women's undergarment that functions as a thong design which can be worn
4 under low-rise or low-cut pants or skirts without the structural aspects or
5 straps of the undergarment being exposed beyond the waistline of the pants
6 or skirt.

7 It is further the object of the present invention to provide an improved
8 women's undergarment that allows the wearer to don the latest women's
9 fashion clothing such as very low-cut pants or skirts, or asymmetrical hipline
10 garments which reveal liberal amounts of the wearer's below-the-waist area
11 without exposing the structural components, straps or material of the
12 undergarment.

13 It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a women's
14 undergarment design which allows a woman to wear tight-fitting and low-cut
15 pants or skirts while having an undergarment that provides the appearance
16 that no undergarment is being worn. In accordance with these and other
17 objectives which will be apparent hereafter, the instant invention will now be
18 described with particular reference to the accompanying drawings wherein
19 like-referenced numerals refer to like-parts.

20 There has thus been outlined in a more general matter the important
21 features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that
22 follows may be better understood, and in order that the present
23 improvement in the undergarment may be better appreciated. There are

1 additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter in
2 which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto. Before
3 explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be
4 understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of
5 construction and the arrangement of the components set forth in the
6 following descriptions or as illustrated in the various drawings described
7 below.

8 The invention as disclosed is capable of other embodiments and can
9 be configured and worn in various different ways as will be appreciated by
10 those skilled in the art of fine women's underwear garments and related
11 clothing design. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and the
12 terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should
13 not be regarded as limiting. As such, those skilled in the art of clothing or
14 fashion design will appreciate that the conception, upon which this
15 disclosure is fully based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing
16 of other garments for carrying out the same purpose of the present
17 invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including
18 such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit
19 and scope of the present invention.

20

21 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

22 **Fig. 1** is a perspective view from the front and left side of the garment

1 illustrating the geometry of the connection point of the straps described as
2 part of the invention.

3 **Fig. 2** is a pictorial illustration of the waistline and buttocks of a typical
4 user showing configuration of the support straps of the invention.

5 **Fig. 3** is a perspective view from the left rear of the invention showing
6 the garment suspended in space.

8 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

9 The invention, a Y-thong shaped undergarment will be described with
10 reference to the various drawings, **Fig. 1** through **Fig. 3** inclusive, describing
11 a new undergarment embodying the principles and concepts of the present
12 invention generally designated by the referenced numeral **10** in the various
13 drawings. With reference to the drawings, it should be appreciated that like-
14 numerals refer to like-parts.

15 Referring first to **Fig. 1**, a pictorial perspective is provided with the
16 invention suspended in air in the same configuration as it might appear if
17 donned by a woman using the undergarment. The undergarment **10** shown
18 in **Fig. 1** is sometimes referred to as a thong, and in the present embodiment
19 is referred to herein as a Y-thong because of the general configuration of
20 the strap connection shown at connection **18**. Thong **10** is comprised of a
21 triangular or wedge-shaped front panel **12**, which is configured to present
22 the wider end of the triangle or wedge at top **14**. The triangular or wedged

1 shape panel generally has three apexes. The bottom of the wedge, a point
2 of the triangular shape of front panel **12** is shown at bottom **16**. Panel **12** is
3 suspended at the top **14** by two straps. Left strap **20** and right strap **22**, as
4 shown in **Fig. 1**, generally suspend panel **12** at top **14** by encircling the
5 user's body and connecting at connection **18** where strap **20** and **22** meet
6 bottom strap **24**.

7 **Fig. 3** illustrates thong **10** from a rear side perspective view more fully
8 disclosing the connection point **18** where strap **20**, strap **22** and strap **24**
9 meet at a point. The connection used to affix the three-point strap meeting
10 at connector **18** may be of various devices or means. In the preferred
11 embodiment, connector **18** is a nylon or plastic triangle which allows the
12 straps to be threaded through and sewn back on themselves to create a
13 permanent attachment.

14 Women's undergarments that are created in the form of a thong-style
15 panty have normally had the top portion of the thong adapted to cover a
16 user's waist and extend about to the rear of the user to provide a band
17 which generally takes the shape of a conventional panty but with less
18 material and more reveal of the thighs and legs. The present invention
19 improves upon any garments presently used by limiting the rise of front
20 panel **12**, so that the top of the panel **14** does not extend up to the user's
21 waistline. The straps **20** and **22** extend about a user's body at a point lower
22 than the user's waistline to prevent revealing of both strap **20** and **22**, as well

1 as front panel **12** at top **14** when the user is wearing low-cut, below-the-hip-
2 style pants or skirts such as has become fashionable in some aspects of
3 women's clothing.

4 Such clothing, if worn with conventional undergarments, pantyhose,
5 and thongs found on the market presently, would reveal the support straps
6 or underwear which, even if a low-rise style, still provides for support straps
7 or waistbands which eventually reveal above the low-cut hipline of such
8 women's garments. The present invention solves this problem by providing
9 a means to restrain the straps which comprises support structure of panel
10 **12** by lowering the point of connection at connector **18** as shown in the
11 various figures.

12 **Fig. 2** is a pictorial illustration of how the invention is worn, and
13 provides an illustration of how the connector **18** is worn at a very low point
14 just above the user's buttocks to allow the user to wear clothing which
15 presents as much reveal of the user's waist as any individual user might
16 dare.

17 **Fig. 2** illustrates the configuration of strap **20** and **22** where it meets
18 the bottom strap **24** at connection **18**. It can be appreciated by
19 consideration of **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 3** that point **18** may rest at a point lower than
20 the beginning of a user's buttocks if in fact the user chooses to wear low-cut
21 jeans or skirts which rest on the upper part of the user's buttocks. The
22 connector used in the preferred embodiment at point **18** is an equal-sided

1 triangular device made of plastic or nylon which presents an obtuse angle at
2 each apex of the triangle of about one hundred twenty degrees (120°),
3 shown as angle 26, as can be fully appreciated from **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 3**.
4 Conventional thongs frequently have an approach angle of waistline straps
5 which present the connection of any material, fabric or strap presented
6 through the legs of the user at a right angle. Accordingly, the advantage of
7 the present invention remain a useful combination of a short length of
8 bottom strap 24, combined with an attachment point 18 located such as to
9 prevent the riding upward of straps 22 or 20 during the course of wearing the
10 garment with low-cut styles. With the configuration as illustrated, the straps
11 can be configured to converge near the posterior or buttocks of the person
12 or at a point below the top of the buttocks to allow more reveal of the user.

13 The description of the invention has emphasized the improvements
14 evident in the geometry of the undergarment. With respect to the materials
15 which can be used, those skilled in the art of clothing design and in
16 particular undergarment fabrication will appreciate that a variety of
17 conventionally available materials may be used. Whether cotton, a cotton
18 blend, an artificial material such as nylon or a natural silk, all such materials
19 might be used to fabricate the undergarment presented in the present
20 invention.

21 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the
22 optimum dimensional relationship for the parts of the invention to include

1 variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation,
2 as well as stylistic variations are deemed readily apparent and obvious to
3 one skilled in the art once the disclosed invention is fully understood. All
4 equivalent relationship to those illustrated in the drawings and descriptions
5 in the specification are intended to be encompassed within the present
6 invention. Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the
7 principles of the invention since numerous modifications and changes will
8 readily occur to those skilled in the art of clothing design, and in particular
9 intimate apparel, as it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact
10 construction and operation shown and described within the drawings or the
11 descriptions above. All suitable modifications and equivalence may be
12 resorted to, but are still considered within the scope of the invention, limited
13 only by the claims set forth herein as well as their equivalence, regardless of
14 the terminology presented.